

Claim Amendments

1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A container filling plant conveyer arrangement ~~according to claim 13, wherein~~ configured to transport containers, such as bottles and cans, said conveyer arrangement comprising:

an input being configured and disposed to receive an input stream of containers;

a first output being configured and disposed to discharge a first output stream of containers;

a second output being configured and disposed to discharge a second output stream of containers;

a first conveyer structure and a second conveyer structure;

said first conveyer structure being configured and disposed to receive a portion of the input stream of containers from said input and being configured and disposed to discharge the first output stream of containers to said first output;

said second conveyer structure being configured and disposed to receive a portion of the input stream of containers from said input and being configured and disposed to discharge the second output

stream of containers to said second output;

said first conveyer structure and said second conveyer structure together being configured and disposed in a physical relation with respect to one another to separate the input stream of containers into the first output stream of containers and into the second output stream of containers;

a guide structure being configured and disposed to guide the first output stream of containers to said first output and the second output stream of containers to said second output;

said first conveyor structure comprises a first portion disposed adjacent said input configured to receive an input stream of containers and a second portion disposed adjacent said first output being configured to discharge a first output stream of containers;

said second conveyer structure comprises a first portion disposed adjacent said input configured to receive an input stream of containers and a second portion disposed adjacent said second output being configured to discharge a second output stream of containers;

said second portion of said first conveyer structure and said second portion of said second conveyer structure being disposed to diverge from one another at a point of divergence;

Docket No.: NHL-HOL-63
Serial No.: 10/723,451
Customer No.: 00432

said guide structure is disposed between said point of divergence and said first and second outputs to permit separation of the first stream of containers into the first output stream of containers and into the second output stream of containers;

said guide structure comprises a tip portion;

said second portion of said first conveyer structure and said second portion of said second conveyer structure are disposed at an angle with respect to one another to separate the first output stream of containers from the second output stream of containers; and

said second portion of said first conveyer structure and said second portion of said second conveyer structure diverge from one another anteriorly of said tip portion of said guide structure.

15. (previously presented) The container filling plant conveyer arrangement according to claim 14, comprising:

at least one sheet metal surface structure;

said at least one sheet metal surface structure is disposed adjacent said point of divergence to permit separation of the first output stream of containers and the second output stream of containers; and

said at least one sheet metal surface structure is configured to

Docket No.: NHL-HOL-63
Serial No.: 10/723,451
Customer No.: 00432

cover at least a portion of the space between said first conveyer structure and said second conveyer structure and to permit sliding of containers thereon.

16. (original) The container filling plant conveyer arrangement according to claim 15, wherein:

said first conveyer structure comprises a first band conveyer;
and

said second conveyer structure comprises a second band conveyer;

and the container filling plant conveyer arrangement further comprising:

a turn station configured and disposed to effectuate at least one of (i) and (ii), wherein (i) and (ii) comprise:

- (i) turning of a conveyer band of a band conveyer; and
- (ii) turning of the direction of movement of containers on a band conveyer.

17. (original) The container filling plant conveyer arrangement according to claim 16, comprising:

a third conveyer structure and a fourth conveyer structure

Docket No.: NHL-HOL-63
Serial No.: 10/723,451
Customer No.: 00432

together being configured and disposed to receive containers from said first output and to separate containers from said first output into a third output stream of containers and a fourth output stream of containers.

18. (original) The container filling plant conveyer arrangement according to claim 16, comprising:

a third conveyer structure and a fourth conveyer structure together being configured and disposed to receive containers from said first output and to separate containers from said first output into a third output stream of containers and a fourth output stream of containers.

19. (original) The container filling plant conveyer arrangement according to claim 18, wherein:

said angle comprises approximately 1.5 degrees.

20. (currently amended) The container filling plant conveyer arrangement according to claim ~~12~~ 14, comprising at least one of ~~(a)~~, ~~(b)~~, (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g), wherein ~~(a)~~, ~~(b)~~, (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) comprise:

~~—— (a) said first conveyor structure comprises a first portion disposed adjacent said input configured to receive an input stream of containers and a second portion disposed adjacent said first output being configured to discharge a first output stream of containers;~~

~~—— said second conveyor structure comprises a first portion disposed adjacent said input configured to receive an input stream of containers and a second portion disposed adjacent said second output being configured to discharge a second output stream of containers;~~

~~—— said second portion of said first conveyor structure and said second portion of said second conveyor structure being disposed to diverge from one another at a point of divergence;~~

~~—— said guide structure is disposed between said point of divergence and said first and second outputs to permit separation of the first stream of containers into the first output stream of containers and into the second output stream of containers;~~

~~—— (b) said guide structure comprises a tip portion;~~

~~—— said second portion of said first conveyor structure and said second portion of said second conveyor structure are disposed at an angle with respect to one another to separate the first output stream~~

~~of containers from the second output stream of containers; and~~
~~— said second portion of said first conveyer structure and said~~
~~second portion of said second conveyer structure diverge from one~~
~~another anteriorly of said tip portion of said guide structure;~~

(c) at least one sheet metal surface structure;

said at least one sheet metal surface structure is disposed adjacent said point of divergence to permit separation of the first output stream of containers and the second output stream of containers; and

said at least one sheet metal surface structure is configured to cover at least a portion of the space between said first conveyer structure and said second conveyer structure and to permit sliding of containers thereon;

(d) said first conveyer structure comprises a first band conveyer; and

said second conveyer structure comprises a second band conveyer;

and the container filling plant conveyer arrangement further comprising:

Docket No.: NHL-HOL-63
Serial No.: 10/723,451
Customer No.: 00432

a turn station configured and disposed to effectuate at least one of (i) and (ii), wherein (i) and (ii) comprise:

(i) turning of a conveyer band of a band conveyer; and

(ii) turning of the direction of movement of containers on a band conveyer;

(e) a third conveyer structure and a fourth conveyer structure together being configured and disposed to receive containers from said first output and to separate containers from said first output into a third output stream of containers and a fourth output stream of containers;

(f) said first conveyer structure and said second conveyer structure comprise one of (i) and (ii), wherein (i) and (ii) comprise:

(i) a belt conveyer structure; and

(ii) a chain conveyer structure;

and

(g) said second portion of said first conveyer structure and said second portion of said second conveyer structure are disposed at an angle with respect to one another to separate the first output stream

Docket No.: NHL-HOL-63
Serial No.: 10/723,451
Customer No.: 00432

of containers from the second output stream of containers;

said angle comprises approximately 1.5 degrees.

21-31. (canceled)